Impact of Exim Policy on oil sector

4129. DR. A. R. KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Exim Policy, 2003-04 promoting oil marketing companies to go in for direct imports of petrol and diesel have been welcomed by all the oil companies;

(b) if so, the details of the companies which will be involved in importing petrol and diesel directly for their retail outlets;

(c) to what extent it has helped in fulfilling the demands of oil and petroleum products to the consumers;

(d) what other steps Government propose to take to deregularise the oil industry further; and

(e) whether this decision of Government will check the prices of these products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per Exim Policy 2003-04, the companies who have been granted rights for marketing of transportation fuels in terms of Resolution No. P-23015/1/2001-MKT. dated 8.3.2002 of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas would be able to import the transportation fuels without going through IOC. So far, marketing rights for transportation fuels have been granted to M/s RIL, ONGC, ESSAR Oil and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.

(c) to (e) The Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector has been dismantled effective 1st April, 2002. The aforesaid provision in the Exim Policy 2003-04, as stated under para (a) and (b) above, is likely to increase competition in the marketing of transportation fuels thereby benefiting the consumers.

Companies involved in exploratory drillings

4130. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exploratory drilling which are being conducted for petroleum and natural gas, both on-shore and off-shore, State-wise and the results thereof;

(b) the names of companies/organisations engaged in drilling operation and the terms of reference in each case;

(a) the number of exploratory drilling which are operating in Mahanadi Basin and East coast off shore and by which companies/organisations and since when and current status of each drilling; and

(b) the number of new wells which have started functioning during each of the last three years and amount of additional oil/natural gas produced from such new wells during each of the last three years?

THEMINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Price charged by private LPG suppliers

4131. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister ofPETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(d) whether people living in rural/hilly and remote areas depend upon private agencies for their LPG supply;'

(e) whether the price of LPG supplied by private agencies is more than the price charged by Government companies;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) what steps have been taken to ensure supply of LPG to people living in remote areas at the same price as charged in plain areas?

THE MINIS1EROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFPETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are releasing domestic LPG connections on demand in all the LPG markets including rural/hilly and remote areas except in some States of North-east region where the release of new connections is temporarily restricted due to shortage of cylinders.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The domestic LPG marketed by OMCs is subsidised.

(d) The basic price of domestic LPG marketed by OMCs is same in all parts of the country.